

Dear sirs:

I am writing in support of the proposal to eliminate the Morse Code requirements for amateur radio licensing (Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235).

I have a disability (possible sensory integration disorder or Asperger's Syndrome--both of which are disorders on the autistic spectrum) that makes it difficult for me to process both written and auditory information simultaneously. Generally when I speak, I am attempting to translate spoken speech to a visual context (and vice versa); I will often be unable to understand either written \*or\* spoken language if I am spoken to whilst typing, etc.

Persons with Asperger's Syndrome and related forms of "higher functioning" autism often are "hyperlexic"--literally, people who are autistic may essentially learn to speak by reading, and will start out speaking in sentences and reading material far in advance of their age or presumed functional level. In other words, when reading or speaking, a lot of us see a written text and then speak that text.

Due to the nature of CW/Morse Code--which relies on transcription of an audio code to written text letter by letter--it is very difficult for many persons with autistic spectrum disorders to ever master. One must translate a CW code to a letter, which must then be recorded or typed. Most people hear this as a natural sound and transcribe it; with Asperger's or persons with similar autism spectrum issues, this becomes more difficult (in that many of us must do a "double translation").

Generally while there has been an exemption for allowances for time in the traditional CW testing, there have not been exemptions for persons with auditory processing or sensory integration issues who may have legitimate difficulties in passing the CW test. (This is understandable--understanding of sensory-integration and autism spectrum disorders is woefully lacking in the outside community, and many people have the stereotype of "Rain Man" in their heads regarding autism spectrum disorders. "Autistic" does not mean "low

functioning"; Albert Einstein, Steve Jobs, and Bill Gates are all suspected of having or having had various autism-spectrum conditions, with Albert Einstein in particular often being noted as a textbook case of Asperger's Syndrome.)

As per international regulations, the Morse Code requirement is no longer necessary. Persons wishing to use Morse Code are more than welcome to do so (and I do actually support bandplans keeping some areas of the spectrum CW and data restricted); even people with sensory integration disorders or autism spectrum disorders can use CW with assistance of devices like computer programs that translate CW to text and vice versa.

I myself probably would be able to get an amateur radio license were it not for the CW requirement right now. (My major area of interest in HF is actually in data modes and--ironically--\*computer assisted\* CW which can be done via low-power or QRP. I, alas, have to have a computer help out much like deaf folks need a TDD/TTY to use the phone.) If the CW requirement is lifted, people who--like myself--have legitimate handicaps that prevent rote learning of CW (even via methods like the Koch method--which work for most folks, but not for folks on the autism spectrum because our brains aren't \*wired\* like neurotypicals) will have a chance to join a hobby that will be not only very interesting but those persons may be able to improve the state of the art of the amateur radio service in general.

Also, it should be noted that the numbers of people in the US with autism spectrum conditions--and in particular "high functioning" autism and Asperger's Syndrome--is increasing by large numbers yearly in the US. CW being the one stopping point because one's brain is wired differently than neurotypicals (often in ways that are useful to us, but occasionally--like with the situation with Morse Code--in ways that are not) is only going to be a growing concern, especially with the numbers of amateur radio licensees dropping yearly.

Speaking as someone who has literally been to the point of banging their head against the wall trying to learn CW for the past twenty years via practically every method known to man (yes, I've been

trying that long...and failing, miserably; discovering only a few years back it's because of the way my head is wired), I appreciate your consideration.

Thank you,

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